[28th September 1956

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : முதல் தரம் குற்றம் செய்தால் ஒரு தண்டனை, இரண்டாவது தரம் குற்றம் செய்தால் அதைவிட அதிக தண்டனை, மூன்றாவது தரம் குற்றம் செய்தால் இன்னும் அதிக தண்டனை என்ற முறையில் சட்டத்தை திருத்துவதற்கு யோசனை இருக்கிறது. அங்கத்தினர் யோசனையும் பரிசீலனை செய்யப்படும்.

10–10 a.m. SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN : Sir, arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister to my supplementary question, I want to make the position clear. I have stated that I am a believer in Prohibition and that is why I wanted that more stringent measures should be taken and the necessary provision should be made in the amending Bill. But the Hon. Minister has stated that I am trying to take cheap credit by sharing the views of others. On the other hand, I am totally differing from those people who say that Prohibition is a failure.

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Without going into the clause of the Bill which is going to be introduced, I do not know how the hon. Member can say that the Bill does not contain sufficient provision for stricter enforcement of Prohibition.

MR. SPEAKER : Questions are over.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 40 *RE* ACUTE SHORTAGE OF AND BLACK MARKETING IN CEMENT IN THE STATE.

MR. SPEAKER : Under Rule 40, I have received notice of a Motion to call the attention of the Minister for Public Works to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., acute shortage of, and blackmarketing in cement in the State. Now, the hon. Member, Mr. Ramalingam, will speak.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, சமீபகாலமாக இந்த ராஜ்யத்தில் சிமிண்டு மூட்டைகள் கிடைப்பது மிகவும் கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. குறிப்பாக சாதாரண ஜனங்கள் தங்கள் சொந்த உபயோகத்திற்கு வீட்டுச் செலவுக்கு ஒரு மூட்டை வேண்டுமென்று தேடினாலும் கூடக் கிடைப்பது சிரமமாக இருக்கிறது. கண்ட்ரோல் விலைக்குக் கிடைப்பது இல்லை. ஆனால் எத்தனை மூட்டை வேண்டுமானாலும் கள்ள மார்க்கெட்டில் கிடைக்கிறது. இந்தக் கள்ளமார்க்கெட் வியாபாரத்தைத் தடுத்து கண்ட்ரோல் விலைக்கே எல்லோருக்கும் சிமிண்டு கிடைக்கும் படியான நடவடிக்கை எதையும் சர்க்கார் எடுக்கவில்லை. அவர்கள் சிமிண்டு மூட்டைகளின் விலையை மட்டும் நிர்ணயித்துவிட்டால் போதாது. அல்லது குறிப்பிட்ட ஒரு சில ஸ்தாபனங்களுக்கு மட்டும் சப்ளை செய்து விட்டாலும் போதாது. சர்க்காரின் சொந்தத் தேவைக்குப் போக பாக்கியுள்ளதை பொதுமக்களுக்கு எந்த வகையில் வினியோகிக்கவேண்டுமென்பதற்குச் சரியான விதி கிடையாது. ஒரு திட்டத்தை ஏற்படுத்தி நியாய விலைக்கே சிமிண்டு பொதுமக்களுக்கும் கிடைக்கும்படியாக சர்க்கார் உடனடியாகச் செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன். இல்லாவிட்டால் ஏழைகள் தங்கள் சொந்த வீடுகளைக் கூட ரிப்பேர் செய்யமுடியாமல் இடிந்துவிழும்படியாக விட்டுவிட்டு நிற்கவேண்டிய நிலைமைதான் ஏற்படும். ஆகவே சர்க்கார் இவ்விஷயத்தில் உடனடியாக நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க வேண்டுமென்பதாகக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு, நான் முடித்துக் கொள்கிறேன்.

28th September 1956]

* THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are three cement factories in Madras State at Dalmiapuram, Madukkarai and Thalayathu with a total maximum production capacity of 55,400 tons per month. Their actual total overall production is thorouhly satisfactory, the monthly average production being 59,170 tons which is far above the scheduled maximum capacity. The Union Government exercises control over cement on an all-India basis and takes over the entire production in the country and allots quotas to cover Central and State demands with a view to ensure equitable distribution of cement throughout the country. The selling price of cement is fixed by the Government of India on an All-India basis and it varies from time to time. The control over cement in this State is exercised through the Additional Director of Industries and Commerce and he is assisted in this work by the Honorary Cement Controllers at Madras and Coimbatore who are also the Regional Honorary Cement Advisers to the Government of India. These Officers are responsible for the proper distribution of cement in this State.

Of late there have been complaints that cement is not available in the required quantity for carrying out various construction works of both the Government and the general public. The first and foremost cause of the prevailing shortage is the inadequate quota for the State allotted by the Centre. While the actual requirements of this State are of an order of about 45,000 tons per month, the Centre allots a quantity of 30,500 tons only per month. This has been the case for more than a year. Representations have been made to the Government of India for increasing the allotment to this State, but the requests have not been complied with. Besides, there are at present certain restrictions on the free movement of cement in certain sections of the Southern Railway Zone on account of the railway traffic rationalization scheme and this has created a serious bottleneck in the distribution arrangement. The Government of India have been requested to remove these restrictions and the matter is under their consideration. Cement is also exported to other States in the Indian Union which are deficit in production of cement and also to foreign countries in accordance with the foreign policy of the Government of India. The recommendation to the Union Government to stop export for some time has not been accepted. The above mentioned factors have contributed to the prevailing shortage of cement in this State with the result that both the Government Departments and the general public find it somewhat difficult to obtain cement freely for their requirements. Though this State is surplus in cement production, it receives a quota from the Centre which is less than its actual requirements by nearly 15,000 tons per month. The distribution of cement within the frame-work of inadequately allotted State quota has resulted in the non-availability of cement in the open market to the required extent.

With effect from 1st July 1956 the Union Government have set up a new organization called the State Trading Corporation

(Private) Ltd., which has taken over the existing cement control machinery. With a view to relieve the present shortage in the country foreign cement is being imported and both the foreign cement and the indigenous cement will be made available at one and the same price. Under the new set up all the cement factories in the country will sell cement to this organization and it will release it for sale to the Government and the general public at a price fixed by it through the existing stockists who are the authorised cement dealers. The existing control machinery will continue to be in force to ensure satisfactory and equitable distribution to all concerned. It is, therefore, expected that the present difficult situation will be relieved shortly with the availability of imported cement. It may be mentioned here that there are no specific instances before the Government of black-marketing in price and non-compliance with the requisitions made by the officers of the Revenue and Agriculture Departments on cement stockists as represented by the hon. Member Sri Ramalingam. I assure the Hon. Member and the House that the Government will always take suitable action against those who indulge in black-marketing or otherwise violate the provisions of the Cement Control Order, if specific instances come to their notice.

SRI M. PALANIYANDI : On a point of personal explanation, Sir, *re* what fell from the Speaker on the number of supplementaries I put. I submit that in respect of Question No. 272-D, I put only one supplementary question.

MR. SPEAKER : I may be wrong. But the hon. Member should not try to attract my attention by calling out, "Sir, Sir". He must try to catch the Speaker's eye and not his ears by standing up in his seat.

III.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* PREVALENCE OF SMALL-POX AND PECULIAR CONTAGIOUS FEVER IN KALLIASSERI VILLAGE, CHIRAKKAL TALUK.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notice of an adjournment motion from the hon. Member Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar, which reads as follows :—

That the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely—

the prevalence of small-pox and a peculiar contagious fever in Kalliasseri village, Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, since two weeks, consequent upon which the Board Higher Elementary school and the Elementary school, Mangad, had to be closed and the failure of the Government to take any effective steps to prevent the spread of such disease and to cure the same in spite of the fact that the President of the Panchayat Board, the Village Munsif and the Headmasters of the schools concerned represented

I do not know whether the Hon. Minister is ready to make a statement. Anyhow, let me hear what the hon. Member has to say on his Motion.